

SOUL OF MAN UNDER
SOCIALISM 283

bribe. The People bribe and brutalize. *Who told* ^{th?m} ^{to} exercise authority? They were made to live, to listen, ^{and} ^{to} love. Soiree one has done them a great wrong. They ^{have} marred themselves by imitation of their superiors. They ^{have} taken the sceptre of the Prince. How should they ^{use} ^{itr} it? They have taken the triple tiara of the Pope. How ^{should} they carry its burden? They are as a clown whose ^{heart} ^{is} broken. They are as a priest whose soul is not yet ^{born}. Let all ^{v,Lo} love Beauty pity them. Though they ^{love} themselves not ^{Bpr-uty}, yet let them pity themselves. Who taught them the trick of tyranny?

There are many other things ^{thft} ^{mi^ht} ^{point} ^{out} ^{One} ^{*} might point out how the Renaissance was great, because ^{it} sought to solve no social problem, and busied itself ^{not} ^{about} such things, but suffered the individual to develop freely, ^{beauti-} fully, and naturally, and so had great and individual ^{artists}, and great and individual men, G;~e might point out ^{ho\y} Louis XIV, by creating the modern state, ^{the} ⁱⁿ⁻ destroyed individualism of the artist, and made things monstrous ⁱⁿ ^{their} monotony of repetition, and contemptible in their conformity to rule, and destroyed throughout all France all those ^{fine} freedoms of expression that had made tradition new ⁱⁿ ^{beauty}, and new modes one with antique form. But the past ^{is} ^{of} ^{no} importance. The present is of no importance. It is ^{with} ^{the} future that we have to deal. For the past is what man ^{should} not have been. The present is what man ought not to ^{be}. The future is what artists are.

It will, of course, be said that such a scheme as is ^{set} ^{forth} here is quite impractical, and goes against human ^{nature}. This is perfectly true. It is impractical, and it goes against human nature. This is why it is worth carrying out, and that ^{is} ^{why} one proposes it. For what is a practical scheme? A ^{practical} scheme is either a scheme that is already in existence, ^{or} ^a scheme that could be carried out under existing conditions. But it is exactly the existing conditions that one objects ^{to}; and any scheme that could accept these conditions ^{is} ^{wrong} and foolish. The conditions will be done away with, ^{and} human nature will change. The only thing that one ^{really} knows about human nature is that it changes. Change ^{is} ^{the} one quality we can predicate of it. The systems that ^{fail} ^{are} those that rely on the permanency of human nature, ^{and} ^{not} on its growth and development. The error of

Louis XIV was
that he thought human nature would always
be the same.